

MESSAGE AUTHENTICATION

ABSTRACT

A method of processing a message to determine a tag value from the
5 message and from a key according to a message authentication code. The
method including the steps of selecting one of a plurality of symbols, the
plurality of symbols forming a codeword encoding a data item derived from
the message, the codeword encoding the data item according to an error
correcting code, wherein said key determines which one of said plurality of
10 symbols is selected; and determining the tag value to be the selected
symbol.